

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 2 are amended by this response. Claims 3-4 are canceled, and claims 5-11 are added. Accordingly, claims 1-2, and 5-11 remain pending in the instant application.

In the latest Office Action, the Examiner objected to the disclosure for disclosing the title of the invention on the same page as the abstract. Accordingly, the abstract has been amended to remove the title of the invention.

Also in the latest Office Action, the Examiner objected to certain informalities of claims 1 and 4. Claim 1 has now been amended as suggested by Examiner and claim 4 has been canceled. As such, Applicants believe the amended claims overcome the objections by the Examiner.

Turning now to address the claim rejections based upon the alleged prior art, embodiments of the present invention relate to a method and apparatus for synchronizing data between electronic devices connected to an interface. More particularly, certain embodiments disclose an electronic device configured to extract a clock component from the serial interface even when the device is not receiving data directed to itself.

Accordingly, amended independent claims 1, 6, and 9 recite in part:

1. A synchronization control method for an electronic device connectable to a serial interface, said synchronization control method comprising:
extracting a clock component from information flowing on said serial interface even when said electronic device is not receiving data directed to itself.
(Emphasis added)

6. A synchronization control method for an electronic device connectable to a serial interface, said synchronization control method comprising:
extracting a clock component from information flowing on said serial interface even when said electronic device is just receiving data directed to another electronic device . . .(Emphasis added)

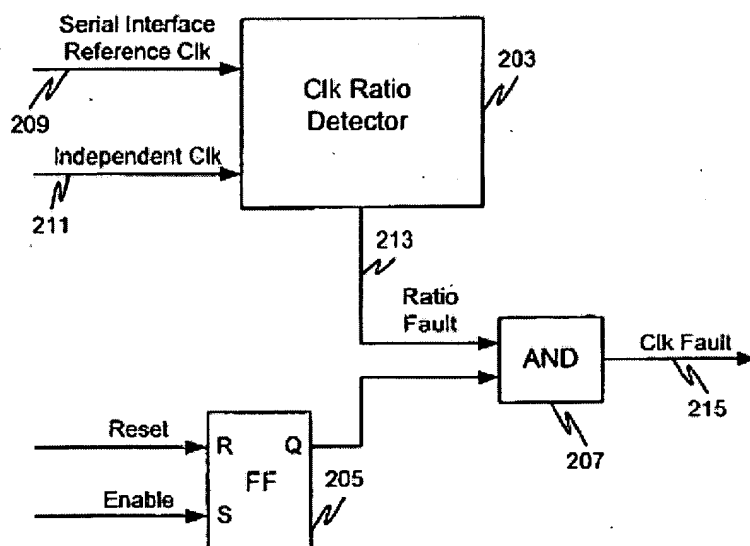
9. An electronic device connectable to a serial interface, comprising:
a data transmission synchronization control unit for extracting clock component from information flowing on said serial interface even when said electronic device is just receiving data directed to another electronic device. . . .
(Emphasis added)

Support for the claim amendments may be found in the specification as originally filed, at least at paragraphs [0029] and [0036].

Claims 1-4 stand rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based upon U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0025090 to Miller ("the Miller Application") and in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,073,001 to Kucharewski et al. ("the Kucharewski Patent"). These claim rejections are traversed as follows.

As a threshold matter, the Examiner is reminded that in order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. (MPEP 2143).

Here, the Miller Application discloses a method for determining clock rate failure in a serial communication interface (See ¶ [0007]). As shown in Figure 2B (reproduced below), the Miller Application simply describes a clock ratio detector 203 for checking failure between serial interface reference clock 209 and independent clock 211:



As acknowledged by the Examiner in the latest office action, the Miller Application does not disclose "extracting clock component from information flowing on the interface when the device is not receiving data." (See Office Action mailed October 4, 2006, pg. 4).

In an effort to provide this absent teaching, the Examiner has combined the Miller Application with the Kucharewski Patent. However, the Kucharewski Patent does not cure the

deficiencies of the Miller Application because the Kucharewski Patent also fails to teach or suggest receiving data directed to another electronic device.

The Kucharewski Patent does disclose a method for providing synchronized data transmission. Unlike the instant application, however, the Kucharewski Patent performs serial channel synchronization, or channel lock, between a transmitter and receiver prior to the transmission of data.

Regardless of how many subject transceivers are contained in the loop, once an initializing transceiver receives a channel lock within the timeout period, the loop is ready and the initializing transceiver may begin transmitting data. (Emphasis added; Col. 5, lines 50-54 and Col. 3, lines 13-15).

Since the Kucharewski Patent *synchronizes before data transmission to another electronic device*, it would be futile for the Kucharewski Patent to provide synchronization again during data transmission. As such, there is absolutely no teaching or suggesting of *synchronizing using data transmitted to another electronic device* as substantially recited in the pending claims.

This lack of any teaching in the Kucharewski Patent regarding synchronization during data transmission, was also recognized by the Examiner in the latest office action.

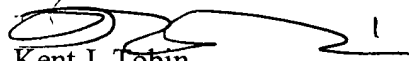
Kucharewski further discloses performing synchronization between the transmitter and receiver before transmitting data (Column 1, lines 50-54)
{Interpretation: The reference discloses performing synchronization before transmitting . . . (Emphasis added; See Office Action Mailed 10/04/06, page 4)

Because the combination of the Miller Application and the Kucharewski Patent fails to teach or suggest all the elements of the independent claims, it is respectfully asserted that these claims are patentable over the art relied upon by the Examiner. Accordingly, continued maintenance of the obviousness claim rejections are improper, and these claim rejections should be withdrawn.

Response to Office Action Mailed October 4, 2006

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


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